

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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SUBJECT: FANFANI AND INGRAO ELECTED PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY
CHAMBERS

REF: ROME 10804

1. AMINTORE FANFANI, OLD GUARD LEADER OF THE DC RIGHT,
WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN SENATE JULY 5, WHILE
PIETRO INGRAO, A HARD-LINE PCI "STALINIST", WAS ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. BOTH WERE NOMINEES
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OF THEIR PARTIES PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE LEADER-

SHIP OF ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT THE EXTREMES OF LEFT AND RIGHT.
BOTH WERE ELECTED BY WIDE MARGINS ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

2. FANFANI RECEIVED 270 VOTES FROM THE 314 SENATORS
PRESENT; INGRAO 488 FROM THE 613 DEPUTIES PRESENT
AND VOTING. THE FAR-RIGHT MSI-DN CAST BLANK BALLOTS
(EQUIVALENT TO "NO") AGAINST BOTH CANDIDATES. EIGHTY-THREE
BLANK BALLOTS WERE ALSO CAST BY OTHERS, PRESUMABLY MOSTLY
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS LIBERALS, AGAINST INGRAO. EIGHT VOTES IN THE
HOUSE WERE DISPERSED AND VOIDED; ONE VOTE IN THE SENATE FOR THE
"SPIRIT OF DEGAULLE" WAS DECLARED NULL AND VOID.

3. PARLIAMENT WILL RECONVENE EVENING OF JULY 9 TO
COMPLETE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RESPECTIVE CHAMBERS.
DIVISION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PRO-
BLEM. SOCIALISTS WILL BE PROBABLY "ELECTED" AS PRINCIPAL
VICE PRESIDENTS IN BOTH HOUSES. MEANWHILE, THE PARTIES ARE
CHOOSING THEIR GROUP LEADERS. THE PSI HAS ALREADY NAMED BETTINO
CRAXI, WITH FORMER GROUP LEADER MARIOTTI STEPPING UP THE THE
VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE HOUSE. THE DC WILL CHOOSE ITS
LEADER ON JULY 8; PICCOLI HAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN HIMSELF
OUT OF CONTENTION. THE PCI HAS RECONFIRMED NATTA FOR THE
CHAMBER AND PERNA FOR THE SENATE. IN THE SENATE, THE SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS HAVE FORMED A NEW GROUP HEADED BY PSDI
SENATOR EGIDIO ARIOSTO.

4. COMPLETION OF THE PARLIAMENT'S REORGANIZATION WILL
PROBABLY BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY MORO'S RESIGNATION, ALLOWING
PRESIDENT LEONE TO BEGIN HIS CONSULTATIONS TOWARD
DESIGNATING SOMEONE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. MORO HAS
MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT AVAILABLE. THE RUMOR MILL
PRESENTLY FAVORS ANDREOTTI.

5. COMMENT: THE SURPRISE, IF ONE MUST BE FOUND, LIES
IN THE PCI'S CHOICE OF PIETRO INGRAO FOR THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE CHAMBER. INGRAO HAS A JUSTIFIED REPUTATION AS
AN OPPONENT OF COMPROMISE WITH THE DC, SPARKING CON-
SIDERABLE SPECULATION REGARDING WHY HE WAS CHOSEN.
MOST OBSERVERS DISMISS SUGGESTION THAT HIS NOMINATION
WAS A BERLINGUER MOVE TO SIDELINE AN OPPONENT. THE
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THEORY THAT BERLINGUER'S OPPOSITION WITHIN THE PARTY
IMPOSED THE CHOICE UPON HIM FINDS MORE SUPPORT. BUT
THE MOST PROBABLY HYPOTHESIS APPEARS TO BE THAT
INGRAO WAS CHOSEN TO TRANQUILLIZE BOTH THE PCI'S
SILENT INTERNAL OPPOSITION AND THE EXTREME LEFT, EVEN AS
BERLINGUER MAKES EVERY EFFORT MADE TO REACH WIDER
AGREEMENTS WITH THE DC. CONSISTENT WITH THIS THEORY
ARE THE WARM RECEPTION INGRAO'S DESIGNATION RECEIVED

FROM THE EXTREME LEFT, AND INGRAO'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
WHICH SAID ALL THE THINGS EXPECTED OF AN IMPARTIAL
PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER. FANFANI'S CHOICE FINDS A
SIMILAR, BUT LESS JUSTIFIED, EXPLANATION AMONG SOME
OBSERVERS, I.E., THAT HE WAS CHOSEN TO COVER THE DC'S
RIGHT FLANK AS IT MOVED TO AGREEMENT WITH THE PCI.
FANFANI'S SPEECH, WHILE AVOIDING POLEMICS, REJECTED
"CONFUSED ASSEMBLAGE" AS A PARLIAMENTARY MEANS OF
CONFRONTING THE NATION'S PROBLEMS.VOLPE

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